

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9-42 were pending as of the Office Action mailed August 18, 2009. Claims 1 and 33-39 are in independent form. Claims 1-7, 9-17, and 19 are being amended. Claims 18 and 20-42 are being canceled. Claims 43-54 are newly added. No new matter has been added. Support for the amended claims and the newly added claims can be found within the applicant's specification at least at page 4, line 5 through page 6, line 20.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Interview Summary

The applicant thanks Examiner Parker for the courtesy of the in-person interview on December 10, 2009. The time spent with the applicant's representatives Tim Wilson, John Biernacki, and Arriènne M. Lezak was greatly appreciated. During the interview, the claims were discussed in view of the references cited. Recommendations were made by the examiner. These recommendations have been incorporated into the claims as noted above.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 16-18 and 20-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,720,982 ("Sakaguchi").

Claim 1

To expedite prosecution, and in accordance with the examiner's recommendations, claim 1 has been amended as noted above. The applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Sakaguchi do not teach or describe each and every element recited in claim 1. Thus, the applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-7, 9-13, and 16-17 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons that apply to that independent claim.

Claims 18 and 20-38 have been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 14, 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sakaguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,933,141 (“Smith”).

Claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sakaguchi in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0093563 (“Pasquali”).

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sakaguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,559,505 (“McNair”).

Claims 39-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sakaguchi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,633,310 (“Andrew”).

Claims 14, 15, and 19 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons noted above that apply to that independent claim.

Claims 23, 24 and 39-42 have been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

New Claims 43-54

Support for new claims 43-54 is noted above. The applicant respectfully submits that the teachings of Sakaguchi, Smith, Pasquali, McNair, and Andrew, alone or in combination, do not teach or describe each and every aspect of new claims 43-54. Thus, the applicant submits that new claims 43-54 are allowable.

Conclusion

The applicant respectfully requests that all pending claims be allowed.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the examiner, the applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, the applicant’s selecting some particular arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for

the patentability of that claim exist. Finally, the applicant's decision to amend or cancel any claim should not be understood as implying that the applicant agrees with any positions taken by the examiner with respect to that claim or other claims.

Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 50-1432, reference No. 343355-600075.

Respectfully submitted,

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